

The River Valley Journal

Objectives

This is a summation activity for students to use information and knowledge they gained from previous lessons. Students will, (1) identify a diversity of issues related to salmon and its habitat; and (2) develop their own opinions concerning some issues involving salmon and its habitat.

Curricular Areas

Language Arts, Science, Art, and Social Studies

California Content Standards

GRADES 3-8

English/Language Arts

3rd Reading 2.0; Writing 1.0, 2.0; Written/Oral 1.0

4th Reading 2.0; Writing 1.0, 2.0; Written/Oral 1.0

5th Reading 2.0; Writing 1.0, 2.0; Written/Oral 1.0

6th Reading 2.0; Writing 1.0, 2.0; Written/Oral 1.0

7th Reading 2.0; Writing 1.0, 2.0; Written/Oral 1.0

8th Reading 2.0; Writing 1.0, 2.0; Written/Oral 1.0

Social Studies

3rd 3.1, 3.3, 3.5

4th 4.1, 4.4

Science

3rd Life 3 a, b, c, d, e; Investigations 5 e

4th Life 2 a, b, 3 a, b, c, d; Earth 5 c

5th Life 2 a, b, c, d; Earth 3 e; Investigations 6 i

6th Ecology 5 a, b, c, e; Resources 6 b;
Investigations 7 d

7th Genetics 2 a, b, c; Evolution 3 a, d, e; Physical
Science 6 b, c, e, f

Method

Students, as a class, write and produce a newspaper that features Chinook salmon and American River information and issues.

Materials

- Time to complete: (3) 50-minute class periods
- Student work from previous lessons
- Research or library resources for historical

and native peoples information

- Art materials
- Camera and film or donated photos
- Sample neighborhood newspapers

Background

The production of a newspaper requires an array of skills including design capabilities, composition, research and decision-making. This activity provides an opportunity for the class to work cooperatively in the production of a newspaper. Students may research historical events, explore current issues, express their recommendations about salmon and their habitats, as well as use materials from previous lessons.

Procedure

1. Using an actual neighborhood newspaper as a model, discuss the various parts of a newspaper. Help the students recognize that a paper contains many different sections; in addition to news stories, there are comics, sports, editorials, food, entertainment, business, advertisements, weather, obituaries, and much more.
2. Explain that the class will work together to create a "Salmon Edition" of the *River Valley Journal*. Some students will work in a team while others will work individually. Have the class decide on the articles that will be included and compile a list. Review previous lessons for materials to include. Remind the class that the paper should have both satirical and serious articles. For example:
 - Cartoon: "Adaptable Ada: A Fish for All Habitats" (Fashion a Fish creation)
 - "Fish Race to Spawning Beds" (sports)
 - Food section: "Fine dining at the River Bend"
 - Book review: *The Life and Times of a*

49'er...“Miners changed the course of the waterways, and washed away mountains with hydraulic mining...”

- Editorial: “The need for water conservation”
 - Kids page: “Create a Salmon Life Cycle” maze, word search, or cross word puzzle
 - Use an interview from the “Fishy Facts” activity
3. Have the students choose an area of interest and begin researching and writing their stories. Encourage sharing and collaborating with others as they work. Keep students on task and make sure written information is accurate even for the humor and satire articles.
 4. For the production part of the newspaper, use either a computer with newspaper template software, or have students hand-write their articles using a specified column format (3 ½

or 4 inches wide will work).

5. The artwork can be photos, illustrations or computer graphics. Help students with the use of equipment, computers, software, cameras, etc.
6. Once the newspaper is complete, copies can be made for the class and perhaps for distribution throughout the community.
7. Summarize this activity with a discussion of each article or feature. How does this newspaper demonstrate what students have learned about salmon and their habitat?

Extension

1. Instead of a newspaper, do a TV news talk show using a video camera.
2. Do an exhibit for a community event

